Department of Homeland Security
Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection
Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report
for 14 November 2003

Daily Overview

- Old Colony Memorial reports the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has notified all nuclear power plants of its concerns for an increased threat potential during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which ends November 24. (See item 2)

- SecurityFocus reports federal officials have accused two Michigan men of repeatedly cracking the Lowe's chain of home improvement stores' nationwide network, from a car parked outside a suburban Detroit store, in a wireless hacking scheme. (See item 4)

- TheSunLink.com reports Washington State Ferries is in the process of finalizing a new security plan, but has revealed few details except that vehicles−−not passengers−−will be subject to security screenings. (See item 7)

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: Energy; Chemical; Defense Industrial Base

Service Industries: Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping

Sustenance and Health: Agriculture; Food; Water; Public Health

Federal and State: Government; Emergency Services

IT and Cyber: Information and Telecommunications; Internet Alert Dashboard

Other: General; DHS/IAIP Web Information

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated
Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES−ISAC) – http://esisac.com]

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1. *November 13, Associated Press* — **Strong winds knock out power.** Strong wind kicked up by a fast−moving cold front swept through much of the Midwest and Great Lakes, knocking out power to hundreds of thousands. High winds were expected to continue Thursday, November 13, as the front moved eastward, dropping a mix of rain and snow. New York−area airports had delays of up to 45 minutes, and conditions there were expected to worsen. **More than 600,000**

customers lost power around the region, including more than 240,000 in Michigan. Besides Michigan, outages hit more than 155,000 customers in Illinois, 15,000 in northern Indiana, 140,000 in Ohio, 37,000 in West Virginia, 12,000 in Pennsylvania, 12,000 in New Jersey and 6,000 in southeastern Wisconsin. Delays of up to 90 minutes were reported Wednesday, November 12, at Chicago−area airports, and a few dozen flights were canceled. In the West, hail remained on the ground Thursday after a freak storm pummeled parts of Southern California. The 5 inches of rain and hail forced motorists to abandon swamped cars at the height of rush hour Wednesday and left thousands of residents without power.
Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=514&e=5&u=/a p/20031113/ap_on_re_us/storms_rdp

2. *November 12, Old Colony Memorial (MA)* — **Nuclear power plants warned. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has notified all nuclear power plants, including Pilgrim, of its concerns for an increased threat potential during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Pilgrim spokesperson David Tarantino said the Plymouth, MA, plant received a lengthy document from the NRC which outlined the commission's concerns about al Qaeda's intentions during Ramadan,** which started at the end of October. The NRC's concern is that al Qaeda members might seek to attack U.S. interests during Ramadan, which is October 26 to November 24, Tarantino said. "They're telling us to be aware," Tarantino said. "We certainly take all these things seriously." However, Tarantino said despite the heightened concern, the Plymouth plant is functioning at normal capacity. Plant security proceedures are designed to protect the plant from terrorist threats by land, air or water, he said.
Source: http://oldcolony.southofboston.com/articles/2003/11/13/news/ news05.txt

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.
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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *November 12, Federal Computer Week* — **Marines aim for comprehensive network. Marine networks are too complicated and unwieldy, and the technology and bandwidth divide between the rear echelons and front lines is too great and must be overcome, according to several officers speaking to an Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association chapter.** "I think across the board, for all of the services, the systems architecture was very complex, and probably needlessly so," said Marine Lt. Colonel Peter Keating, fire support coordinator for the 1st Marine Division, which took part in this year's Iraqi operations. "That was the product of fielding a lot of systems that performed very specialized tasks and functions. **We haven't created the conditions for a successful interoperable environment from the go, so we have some improvements to do there."** When the Marines were ready to cross the line of departure into Iraq, a standard architecture for the formation of a comprehensive communications network was not in place and was assembled on the fly. Major Michael Sweeney, a command and control integration officer in support of the coalition force

land component commander, said all Marines had to learn how to be information managers and that led to widespread digitization.

Source: http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1110/web−marines−11−12− 03.asp

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Banking and Finance Sector

4. *November 13, SecurityFocus* — **Wireless hacking bust in Michigan. In a wireless hacking prosecution, federal officials this week accused two Michigan men of repeatedly cracking the Lowe's chain of home improvement stores' nationwide network from a car parked outside a suburban Detroit store.** Paul Timmins and Adam Botbyl were charged Monday, November 10, with penetrating and intentionally damaging a Lowe's system in violation of the federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. According to an affidavit filed by FBI agent Denise Stemen, intruders first hopped onto the wi−fi network at the Lowe's store in Southfield, MI, on October 25th, at 11:20 p.m, and used the store's network to access the company's central data center at Lowe's North Carolina headquarters. They returned at least six times over the following two weeks and used the network to access store networks at seven other Lowe's locations around the country. **Lowe's network security team determined that the intruders had installed a virtual wiretap in a program that handles credit card transactions for all the Lowe's stores nationwide.** "They were not able to access nationwide credit card files or get into corporate systems," says Lowe's spokesperson Gina Balaya. "They did access six credit card transactions from one store."

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/69/33959.html

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Transportation Sector

5. *November 13, Daily Comet (Thibodaux, LA)* — **New maritime regulations will cost $7.3 billion.** A new set of maritime industry security regulations has been approved on the federal level, providing what officials describe as a "significant improvement in the way America's ports, waterways and ships are protected from terrorists attacks." **The finalized rules, which were issued to replace temporary rules introduced in July, will cost America's ports, as well as vessel and oil platform owners, an estimated $7.3 billion in the next 10 years**, according to information released by the Department of Homeland Security. Many of the new rules being enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard have already been implemented in places such as Port Fourchon in Louisiana, one of the nation's most significant oil−and−gas deepwater ports. But with more changes to come, port officials are hoping Congress will come through with additional assistance. Thus far, however, federal assistance for the groups −− including money already distributed, announced and upcoming −− totals only about $476 million, leaving a large price to be paid. **The final rules make significant changes in security practices within all segments of the maritime industry, including cruise ships, container ships and offshore oil platforms.**

Source: http://www.dailycomet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2003111 2/NEWS/311120328/1003

6. *November 13, The Desert Sun (CA)* — **Airport unveils $7.7 million Vehicle Inspection Plaza.** California's Palm Springs International Airport dedicated its new Vehicle Inspection Plaza Wednesday−−the first of its kind in the United States. **Travelers will see little change in their usual routine as vehicles seeking access to the terminal are re−routed through the new $7.7 million inspection area beginning Tuesday**, said Allen Smoot, airport executive director. The project was fully funded by a Federal Aviation Administration Security Grant. Additional delays won't be a factor in the implementation of the inspection center for regular passenger vehicles unless the airport is ordered to go to a high level security alert by the Transportation Security Administration, Smoot said. **Hydraulic powered steel barriers can be manually triggered by airport staff to stop an uncooperative driver but also will deploy automatically if someone runs through the inspection gate**, Smoot said. The barriers can take the axle off an 18−wheeler at 60 mph, he said. In addition, boulders, palm trees and more than 2,000 feet of masonry security walls were implemented to prevent access, Smoot said.
Source: http://www.thedesertsun.com/news/stories2003/local/200311130_13010.shtml

7. *November 13, TheSunLink.com* — **State ferries panel to discuss security plans.** Washington State Ferries' (WSF) new anti−terrorism security plan will be discussed Thursday during a closed−door meeting with the state Transportation Commission in Olympia. **WSF, in the process of finalizing its plan, has revealed few details except that vehicles−−but not passengers−−will be subject to security screenings**. The plan must be approved by the U.S. Coast Guard by the end of the year and implemented by July. What is not known about the plan is how many vehicles will be screened, if they'll be screened randomly or based on suspicion. **The Coast Guard, in its guidelines, will determine how often and under what circumstances vehicles will be searched**. Ferry officials said they have not determined what parts of their security plan will be made public. The Coast Guard's new ferry security guidelines, revamped during the past year, have been praised as being more flexible than the original ones. Those were shelved after concerns were raised about the possible crippling of the ferry system with airport−like screenings at terminals and the high costs to implement them. Now, **any undue costs placed on the ferry system by the security guidelines will likely be covered by federal dollars**. That language was placed in the U.S. House's version of the Coast Guard authorization bill last week.
Source: http://www.thesunlink.com/redesign/2003−11−13/local/314393.s html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.
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Agriculture Sector

8. *November 13, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Chile now considered free of classical swine fever.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adding Chile to the list of regions recognized as free of classical

swine fever (CSF). **APHIS has conducted a risk assessment and has determined that Chile meets the requirements for recognition as free of CSF. APHIS is also proposing to add certification requirements for origin and handling to ensure that live swine, pork, and pork products imported into the United States from Chile are free of classical swine fever.** Such certificates would be completed by veterinarians of the Chilean Agriculture and Livestock Service These actions will relieve restrictions on the importation of pork, pork products, live swine, and swine semen from Chile while continuing to deter the introduction of classical swine fever into the United States. Notice of this proposal is scheduled for publication in the November 13 Federal Register.
Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2003/11/chilecsf_vs.html

9. *November 13, Telegraph* — **Cows go missing from records. The location of 100,000 cattle is unknown as a result of inaccurate records, according to a UK parliamentary watchdog.** It was critical of the way the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs operated its systems for identifying and tracking 25 million cattle, sheep, and pigs in England. The National Audit Office (NAO) said that the statistical black hole was costing the Government $25 million a year. The additional costs included paying staff to correct the errors, extra postage, and European Commission penalties. **The NAO found that a quarter of postal applications for cattle passports contained errors. It also discovered that movement records were incomplete for one in eight animals, with the result that the whereabouts of two per cent of cattle was "uncertain."** The report noted that the animal movements licensing system, introduced after the UK foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001, had yet to be tested by a serious outbreak.
Source: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/11/13/ncow13.xml&sSheet=/news/2003/11/13/ixhome.html

10. *November 12, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Brazil state stops GM soy seed cargo.** The Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul impounded a truck of genetically modified (GM) soybean seeds leaving the state, according to a state official. **The truck was apprehended at one of the checkpoints set up along the border with Santa Catarina state since November 3, to stop the spread of GM crops across the whole country, during the current planting season.** A presidential decree allowed the planting of GM crops for the first time this season, but prohibits the sale and transport of seeds within states. A state official said inspections will continue till December, the end of the planting season. However, one trader said the block will have little effect as most producers bought their seeds for the current season some time ago. **Agriculture secretariat laboratories were testing the contents of 78 trucks as of Tuesday.**
Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=22225

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Food Sector

11. *November 13, Agence France Presse* — **Russia suspends sale of baby food. Russian health authorities suspended the sale of baby food products manufactured by the German company Humana, one of which has been tied to the deaths of two Israeli infants.** Deputy Health Minister Gennady issued an order that the company's baby food products sold under its own label or under the Remedia and Baby Sitter labels be pulled from shelves. **Two Israeli**

infants have died from nerve and heart problems caused by vitamin B1 deficiency after being fed Humana's soya−based formula marketed in Israel under the Remedia label, the country's health ministry has said.** The company, Germany's number two baby food manufacturer, has said a human error in the production process led to too little of the vitamin being added. **German prosecutors have launched an investigation.**
Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1508&ncid=75 1&e=9&u=/afp/20031113/hl_afp/israel_germany_health

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Water Sector

12. *November 13, Globe And Mail* — **Canadian water plants report sounds warning. Nearly one in eight water treatment plants in Southern Ontario, Canada, during the 1990s failed to meet drinking water guidelines, according to a study released yesterday in the Canadian Journal of Public Health.** The plants were mostly small and in rural areas, but the large number of them meant that a substantial population had inadequate treatment systems. The research covered the period from 1992−99 when Ontario had no laws governing the treatment of drinking water, and relied on non−binding, voluntary guidelines for municipal water quality. About half of all waterborne disease outbreaks occur in supplies that haven't been properly disinfected or filtered. **The ministry of environment says the new standards have corrected the problems identified in the study, although figures on the number of water plants not complying with the rules were not immediately available. But the study warns that the country's water treatment plants still have weaknesses that could lead to disease outbreaks.** The biggest concern was over Cryptosporidium, a protozoa that causes diarrhea. An outbreak spread through Milwaukee, Wisconsin's water system in 1993 and sickened more than 400,000 people.
Source: http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/ 20031113/UWATE13/TPHealth/

13. *November 12, Long Beach Press Telegram* — **Making salt water drinkable. National, state, and local officials kicked off construction of a seawater desalination research facility that will use a unique system engineered and tested at the Long Beach, CA, Water Department.** The new desalination technology, tested for the past two years in a small prototype laboratory at the Long Beach Water Department, removes salt and impurities from sea water more inexpensively and efficiently than traditional systems do. **If the larger, 18 month research plant experiment is successful, as expected, the department will received additional federal money to build a working facility capable of producing 10 million gallons a day to supply Long Beach.** By 2010, officials predict, about 15 percent of Long Beach's water needs could be met by using the new desalination technology. The unique filtration system, which was invented and designed by the water department's assistant general manager, Diem Vuong, uses 20 to 30 percent less energy than traditional techniques, making it more efficient and less expensive.
Source: http://www.presstelegram.com/Stories/0,1413,204~21479~176215 7,00.html#

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Public Health Sector

14. *November 13, Scout News* — **First U.S. death from raccoon rabies reported.** U.S. health officials have documented the first case of a human death from raccoon rabies in this country. **A previously healthy 25–year–old Virginia man died with a diagnosis of meningoencephalitis after a three–week illness. Subsequent tissue testing by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed a diagnosis of rabies.** Then, genetic testing identified a rabies virus associated with raccoons, but how the man became infected remains unknown. Human rabies can be prevented by avoiding exposure to suspicious animals, vaccinating and supervising pets, and seeking prompt medical care if a bite from a potentially rabid animal occurs, health experts say.
Source: http://www.healthcentral.com/news/NewsFullText.cfm?id=516045

15. *November 13, BBC News* — **Scientists use DNA to make virus. Craig Venter, from the Institute for Biological Energy Alternatives, has artificially constructed the genetic blueprint of a virus from scratch using bits of DNA. The virus, known as Phi–X174 (Phi–X), usually infects bacteria.** Previously, other researchers have synthesized the poliovirus genome using enzymes that naturally occur in cells. However, that effort took years to achieve and produced viruses with defects in their synthesized genetic code. The researchers assembled several sections of the Phi–X genome from oligonucleotides, small pieces of single–stranded DNA. After connecting these sections in an overlapping pattern, they used polymerase cycle assembly to completely construct the double–stranded viral genome. **The entire process, which took 14 days, created viral DNA identical to the known genetic code.** The synthetic bacteriophage behaved just like the 'natural' one. It had the ability to infect and kill bacterial cells and is indistinguishable from its counterpart. **The scientists say that although this technique is limited to simple organisms, the ability to quickly and accurately synthesize long segments of DNA could help them understand the function of particular genes, and may be a stepping stone to manipulating more complex organisms.** Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3268259.stm

16. *November 12, Reuters* — **Shortage of nurses, hospital beds foreseen in U.S.** A new study suggests that demand generated by aging baby boomers could well lead to too few hospital beds. At the same time, a second study released Wednesday finds that while the long–standing shortage of nurses eased dramatically in 2002, the nation is likely to be short of nurses for the foreseeable future. **Spending on hospital care could grow by as much as 75 percent by 2012, Stuart Altman of Brandeis University told a briefing sponsored by the Federation of American Hospitals. Such an increase in demand, said Altman, could result in a need for as many as 200,000 new hospital beds.** Altman said that the aging of baby boomers is less of a driver than their demand for care driven by technological advances, such as knee and hip replacements. **At the same time, said Peter Buerhaus of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, the nation is likely facing an even more severe shortage of nurses over the coming decades. The key problem, Buerhaus said, is that the nursing workforce is aging dramatically, while there are not enough nurses being trained to take their place.** Last year nursing schools turned away 5000 qualified applicants "because we didn't have the capacity" to train them, Buerhaus said.
Source: http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=3808507&section=news

Government Sector

17. *November 12, Gannett News Service* — **U.S., Mexico make progress on migration deal. Mexico and the United States will move "step by step" toward an agreement that could allow millions of Mexicans to legally live and work in the United States**, top officials from both countries said Wednesday. But Secretary of State Colin Powell and Mexican Foreign Minister Ernesto Derbez did not set a deadline or outline specific details, cautioning that they do not want to raise expectations. The two spoke following the conclusion of this year's U.S.–Mexico Binational Commission meeting. The high–level talks covered a wide array of issues critical to both countries, including drug trafficking, agriculture, water resources and border–related matters. U.S. and Mexican officials announced that they will create a telephone hotline between the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its counterpart in Mexico and will send U.S. Peace Corps volunteers to work on high–tech projects in Mexico for the first time. But questions at a news conference Wednesday focused entirely on immigration. **Mexican immigrants, legal and undocumented, comprise the largest percentage––30 percent––of all foreign–born residents in the United States, and more than half of the nine million undocumented immigrants in the country**. DHS Secretary Tom Ridge said Wednesday that the administration will review the visa process for Mexicans seeking legal residency and will look at making changes in repatriation policies.
Source: http://www.thedesertsun.com/news/stories2003/national/200311 13031127.shtml

Emergency Services Sector

18. *November 13, Detroit Free Press* — **New radio system helps police communication.** On Wednesday, the Sheriff's Department, Michigan State Police, the police and fire departments of Livonia and Farmington Hills and the Farmington Public Safety Department became the first agencies to join in a pilot program to connect their radio systems. That program will operate for 90 days to make sure all the kinks are worked out. The new system has interoperability, so that agencies are now able to communicate with each other. That lack of communication has caused serious problems over the years. After 9/11, the U.S. Homeland Security Department launched an initiative to ensure that police, fire and other emergency personnel could communicate with each other no matter what radio system they used. **Instead of scrapping all their different systems, the agencies participating in a pilot program decided to look for ways to connect them**. Therefore, the $42–million plan to install a new emergency radio system in Oakland County, included a project to connect Oakland's system with others in the state.
Source: http://www.freep.com/news/locoak/nradio13_20031113.htm

Information and Telecommunications Sector

19. *November 12, Washington Post* — **Tech security chiefs form alliance.** Nearly a dozen top technology luminaries are lending their star power to a new think–tank that will look for ways to elevate the status of chief security officers in the private sector, a move that they say will go a long way toward improving Internet security. The Global Council of Chief Security Officers was formed by former White House cybersecurity adviser Howard Schmidt. **The council will consult with technology vendors and industry groups to help design more secure products for the next generation of the Internet**, Schmidt said. MCI's Vint Cerf said that the council should also encourage more compatibility between different and competing technologies. Failure to do so, especially as the Internet grows into even more of a commercial medium, could prove damaging to online networks. The council will hold its first meeting in San Jose in January and a CSO summit in San Francisco the following month. **U.S. CERT, a new partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the CERT Coordination Center––a government funded security watchdog group at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh––will oversee the council's day–to–day activities**. The council is on the Web at: http://www.csocouncil.org
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/articles/A32734–2003Nov12.html

20. *November 11, The Register* — **Eudora users warned over 'reply to all' trick. A buffer overflow vulnerability in Eudora version 5.x, the popular email client, creates a mechanism for hackers to compromise targeted PCs**. The problem stems from a failure to properly verify the "From:" and "Reply–To:" when users of vulnerable versions of Eudora select "Reply–To–All". **This shortcoming creates a means for hackers to spam users with a maliciously constructed email designed to trigger this buffer overflow condition**. Users should update to Eudora 5.1–Jr3 (Japanese) or Eudora 6.0 (English) in order to shore up their security defenses: http://www.eudora.com/
Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/33921.html

21. *November 10, Information Security* — **BEA Tuxedo Administration vulnerability requires fix.** Thousands of customers in Fortune 500 enterprises are urged to patch or upgrade to remedy a security issue in BEA Tuxedo Administration Console. **A problem with processing input arguments can allow denial of service, disclosure of file system information or cross–site scripting**. BEA Tuxedo provides middleware for building scalable enterprise applications in heterogeneous, distributed environments. The BEA Tuxedo administration console is a CGI application for remote administration of Tuxedo functions. Vulnerable versions include BEA Tuxedo 8.1 and prior. A patch is available for Tuxedo 8.1, and previous versions should be upgraded to 8.1: http://edocs.bea.com/tuxedo/tux81/install/insadm.htm
Source: http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,28914 2,sid14_gci935949,00.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
AlertCon: 2 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	Security Focus ThreatCon: 2 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/

Current Virus and Port Attacks

Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: **TROJ_DASMIN.B** Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html, Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms−sql−m), 137 (netbios−ns), 445 (microsoft−ds), 1433 (ms−sql−s), 554 (rtsp), 4899 (radmin), 161 (snmp), 80 (www), 139 (netbios−ssn) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

Nothing to report.
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DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web−site (http://www.nipc.gov), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

DHS/IAIP Warnings – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

DHS/IAIP Publications – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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Contact DHS/IAIP

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